



## Locative prepositions “at, in, on” and translation to Vietnamese representational meaning

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*Abstract: Starting with the role of the reference frame under the influence of the perspective culture of the British and Vietnamese used as a cognitive premise of translation, the article presents the rationale for the procurement process on reasons, similarities, and differences in the representational meaning. The representational meaning of differences between the English locative preposition “at, in, on” and the corresponding linguistic units of Vietnamese through a particular communication context. According to the research results, when the reference object (DTQC) of the English locative position in the reference system is assimilated with the Vietnamese speaker [similar to the reference frame of the reference system], the translation semantics of the locative prepositions which is “at, in, on” is like the expression representational semantics of the corresponding units in Vietnamese. The dissimilarity of the reference frames results in different structural semantics.*

*Keywords: cultural awareness; locative prepositions; prepositions; representational meaning; translation .*

## INTRODUCTION

A locative preposition is a word, or a phrase used to set up the connection between two items: a trajector (“in the cognitive linguistic literature on space, the thing to be located is usually described as the trajector”) (DTDV), and a landmark (“the thing that serves as the reference point the landmark”) (DTQC) by organizing a framework of prepositions through a topological relationship of spatial topological (Levinson, 1996; Logan & Sadler, 1996; Radden & Dirven, 2007).

In Vietnamese, in the above examples, the position of “newspaper” relative to the “shelf” in the three sentences has the same meaning “ở trên”. However, in English, the “newspaper” is in direct contact with the surface of “shelf”, semantics of the preposition “on” shows. If “magazine” does not directly touch the plane of “shelf” by a small margin of distance, then the semantic of the preposition “above” is perceived. Similarly, if the framework references are “magazine” that is not directly in contact with the surface of the “shelf” by a large distance margin, then the semantics of the preposition “over” are used.

A few Vietnamese linguists, including Tran Quang Hai (n.d.), Nguyen Duc Dan (2018) have noted the theoretical foundation of the cognition of semantic translations about the similarities and variations among the English prepositions “at, in, on” and the relational Vietnamese words (TDTV) through many differences as a reference for positioning prepositions and the mechanism of reciprocal interplay among the trajectors and landmarks. Therefore, in this article, we show the comparable representational semantics and



structural semantics through particular conversation contexts of the locative prepositions “at, in, on” into Vietnamese relational words with the framework of prepositions such as the British and Vietnamese point of view, traditional culture as the basis for semantic perception with representational meaning.

In this paper, Researchers determined to layout based totally on qualitative studies, particularly a researcher look at replying to the studies “Why do you operate a representational meaning of prepositions to survey translation of locative prepositions “at, in, on””? “What are similarities and differences between English and Vietnamese in translation of the prepositions “at, in, on””?

## METODE

The lessons in British and American literature course, a weekly 5-hour lecturer in the semester's course, designed to combine prepositions “at, in, on”. The main survey of the one hundred college students use their studying of the framework of prepositions randomly to the study for my survey. Students have been divided into small groups to perform the implementation of the usage of framework of representational meaning of prepositions “at, in, on” and variations and similarities in translation of prepositions “at, in, on”. After every section of the project, students have been required to finish their reflective journal. The framework of prepositions packages lasted for 12 weeks in the course. In the end, one-hundred reflective journal students' entries have been accumulated for every section of the framework of prepositions. At the end of the route, students have been required to reply to the open-ended questions concerning the elements that cause them to have interaction in the program's course.

All students in my research were assessed through a reflective journal. After students finished, the rankings in every section from the students were to summed up from the students' reflective journal to symbolize the engagement of that stage. Especially, the validity and reliability have been tested earlier than this analysis.

## DISCUSSION

The variety of geometric forms of prepositions in the positioning frame of reference may be the fundamental premise for the cognitive semantics of prepositions through structural structures (Crangle & Suppes, 1989) in different reference frames. The framework is decided through the connection among the fundamental features, the intrinsic features, or through the interactive surroundings, the connotation among the trajector and the landmark (DTDV and DTQC).

[1] *The cat is ON the table.*

*(Con mèo ở trên bàn).*

The framework of prepositions locates the space in the sentence. It is the space containing the cat (DTDV) and the table (DTQC).

## 2.1 Definition of representational meaning

The meaning of structure in a sentence comprises it centered on the verb expression and the participants in the expression should be or so-called representational meaning. Thus, the structure of the expression, which is the structure of the meanings in the sentence, is the type of "derivative" meaning that is prepared to be skewed and the type of meaning according to the calculation used. The standard deviation 'derivative' meaning is the 'use' meaning based on custom. Therefore, Bennett argues that the concepts of expressions in a language are a combination of different "representational meanings" carry arbitrary, abstract and binary.

## 2.2 The relationship between the locative references and the semantics of the locative preposition.

Because prepositions seem to happen in the locating references system with varieties geometric frames of reference consistent with sorts of relationships among DTDV and DTQC, so we can understand prepositions with many special semantic nuances (Levinson, 1996). In addition, diverse non-geometrical elements surrounding a DTDV comprising roles-features and interplay dynamics (e.g., prepositions) also play a crucial function of their positioning (M. Bowerman, 1996; Melissa Bowerman, 1996; Coventry & Garrod, 2004; Feist & Gentner, 1998; Gardenfors, 2014; Herskovits, 1986). Thus, in a framework of preposition, the locative preposition shows in physical space, and a lot of these frames influence the locator being evaluated, and it is far more marked as a DTQC in the interplay relationship. In addition, according to Radden and Dirven (2007, p. 307), the characteristics of prepositions are expressed via the interplay among DTDV and DTQC in the spatial topological reference and the idea of "shape of spatial link" of DTDV and DTQC that is the shape of the physical area among their items in the space and is expressed in 3 fundamental forms of spatial relationships according to two basic positioning strategies of entities in space: the size of the landmarks and the orientation between DTDV and DTQC. Prepositional semantics are given in context according to the characteristics of the relationship between DTDV and DTQC.

[2a] *The newspaper is on the shelf.*

*(Tap chí ∅ ở trên kệ)*

[2b] *The newspaper is above the shelf*

*(Tap chí ∅ ở trên kệ)*

[2c] *The newspaper is over the shelf*

*(Tap chí ∅ ở trên kệ)*

In Vietnamese, in the above examples, the position of “newspaper” relative to the “shelf” in the three sentences has the same meaning “ở trên”. However, in English, the “newspaper” is in direct contact with the surface of “shelf”, semantics of the preposition “on” shows. If “magazine” does not directly touch the plane of “shelf” by a small margin of distance, then the semantic of the preposition “above” is perceived. Similarly, if the framework references are “magazine” that is not directly in contact with the surface of the “shelf” by a large distance margin, then the semantics of the preposition “over” are used.

### 2.3 The point of view on the semantic utterances in English

One way to explain why people use the same lexical concept but different languages use different semantic units to represent it that is through culture, the point of view in the utterances of each ethnic group over the years through concepts of point of view or camera angle of Kuno, Susumu and Kaburagi (1977). When locating in a positioning reference, the British consider the connections among the trajector and the landmark as these references in the navigation system (Pérez & McCarthy, 1998; Torres-Montoya et al., 2016).

[3] *The balloon is flying in the sky.*

*(Quả bóng đang bay trong/ trên bầu trời).*

The reason is why the British use the preposition “in” because they only determine the “balloon” (DTDV) with the “sky” (DTQC) and the relationship of inclusion [frame of reference] (the balloon is contained by space of the sky).

### 2.4. The point of view on the semantic utterances of Vietnamese

In contrast, when Vietnamese find an item in a positioning situation, the Vietnamese “take themselves in the middle to understand the universe” as a reference for positioning in the navigation system (Chu et al., 2018; Minh & Luận, 2014; Sâm, 2013; Vinet & Zhedanov, 2011).

[4] *He is in the living room.*

Depending on the point of view of the speaker, the Vietnamese have different translations:

[4a] *(Anh ấy ở dưới phòng khách) (for example, if the speaker is upstairs)*

[4b] *(Anh ấy ở trên phòng khách) (for example, if the speaker is in the kitchen)*

[4c] *(Anh ấy ở ngoài phòng khách) (for example, if the speaker is in the bedroom)*

[4d] *(Anh ấy ở trong phòng khách) (for example, if the speaker is in the house)*

[4e] *(Anh ấy ở phòng khách) (for example, if the speaker is in the house).*

## FINDING

The primary purpose is to reply to the studies questions primarily based totally on the evaluation of the reflective journal.

**Question 1: “Why do you operate a representational meaning of prepositions to survey translation of locative prepositions “at, in, on”?”**

Through survey, the first reason is that in English, the representational meaning of the preposition “at” in the Oxford Advanced Learner’s dictionary is:

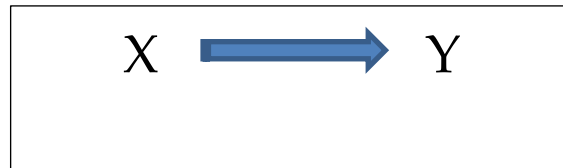


Figure 1. The representational meaning of preposition “at”

Object X is at (“ở”/ “tại” in Vietnamese) or towards an object Y (a point in space: mountain, city, bus station, house, etc.).

Similarly, the locative preposition “in” is represented by a figure diagram:

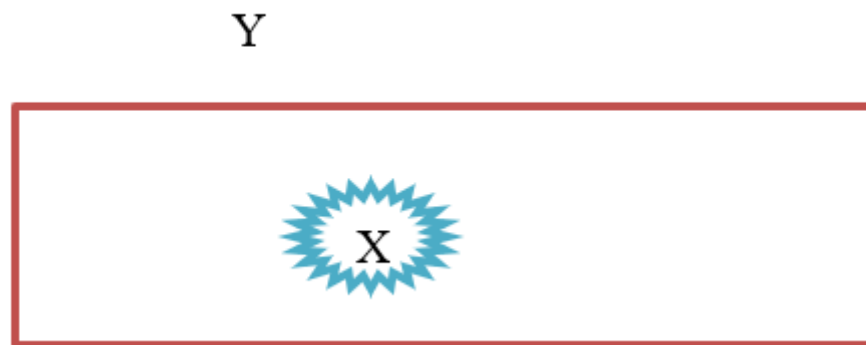


Figure 2. The representational meaning of preposition “in”

In which, object X is in (“trong” in Vietnamese) an object Y (a point in space: village, garden, yard, etc.).

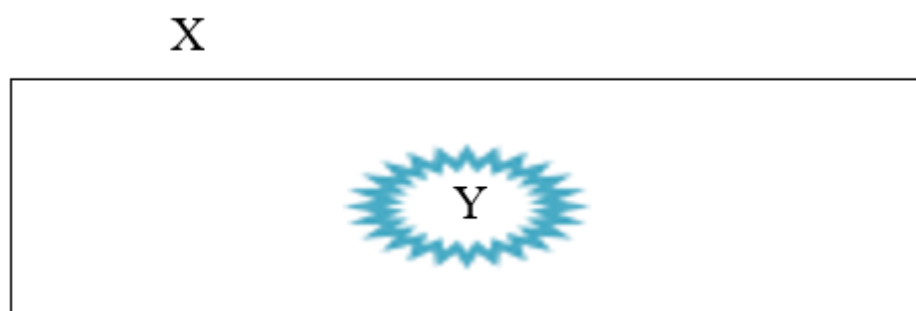


Figure 3. The representational meaning of preposition “on”

Object X is on (“ở trên”/ “trên” in Vietnamese) the surface or next to it, in contact with an object Y (a line in space: river, beach, table, etc.).

Through survey, the second reason is that if the representational meaning of the locative prepositions “at, in, on” and TDTV is considered as the surface, then the culture and point of view make up the meaning on the semantic level in the utterances of the locative prepositions and TDTV is understood as depth, the core of that semantic aspect.

We derive the representational meaning of the locative prepositions “at, in, on” and TDTV:

The locative preposition “at” is equivalent to “ở”, “tại” in Vietnamese (2 meanings). These Vietnamese meanings are consistent with the relationship between DTDV and DTQC in English (the locative preposition “at” with the pathological relationship between DTDV and DTQC) (as stated in the first reason).

The locative preposition “in” is equivalent to “trong”, “ở trong” in Vietnamese (2 meanings). These Vietnamese meanings are consistent with the relationship between DTDV and DTQC in English (locative preposition “in” with DTDV is in DTQC) (as stated in the first reason).

The locative preposition “on” is equivalent to “trên”, “ở trên” in Vietnamese (2 meanings). These Vietnamese meanings “show the position of an object close to the surface of something”, so these meanings are only equivalent to the meanings in English because the locative preposition “on” with the relationship of support and contact between DTDV and DTQC (Biên, 1999; Thanh, 1998; Thung, 1996).

**Question 2: “What are similarities and differences in translation of English and Vietnamese in locating the preposition “at, in, on”?”**

Translation between English and Vietnamese requires translators to have skills in the source and target languages. Through the study of translation theory, we find that there are three different views on translation equivalence:

First, equivalence between English and Vietnamese languages is a necessary condition in the learning and research process and that equivalent translation is an achievable goal because translation is actually the resolution of the categories belonging to two cultures, on the intercultural level, the linguistic situations involved in the equivalent semantic translation process.

The second opinion is that translation equivalence is not possible, and this makes translation research difficult because translation equivalence belongs entirely to the source and language languages. target language, so equivalent translation between the two languages is not possible because of the different nature of the languages.

The third opinion is that equivalence is a classification for translation research and translation practice. This author argues that radical translation equivalence is not possible, but to some extent, equivalence is still possible.

Table 1. Results of corpus survey in 3 literary works: *Jane Eyre*, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *Ivanhoe*

<i>Locative prepositions</i>	<i>TDTV</i>	<i>The number of appearances in literary works</i>
“at”	“ở”/ “tại”	141
“in”	“trong”	432
“on”	“trên”	233

Through the above structure of translation in Table 1, we analyze the similarities and differences between the locative prepositions “at, in, on” and TDTV.

**a. The similarities in translation of English and Vietnamese in locating the preposition “at, in, on”**

From the compare and contrast in the meaning of the locative prepositions “at, in, on” and TDTV when they represent the same linguistic expression, we find that locating means all have the following similarities: (the concept of “marking direction” is not the research aim of the topic).

If the English and Vietnamese units have the same frame of reference in a position-specific situation, the meaning of the preposition “at” in the translation is like the Vietnamese semantic expression “ở”; the semantics of the preposition “in” are expressed in the same way as the semantics of the Vietnamese “trong”, and the semantics of the preposition “on” are converted to similar Vietnamese semantics of the expression “trên”, as in the following example:

**Table 2. The similiar of English prepositions “at, in, on” and the Vietnamese semantic expression (TDTV)**

N°	Example	English preposition	TDTV	Semantic expressions
[5]	The remains of this extensive wood are still to be seen <u>at</u> the noble seats of Wentworth, of Wharncliffe Park, and around Rotherham (Smith, 1909). (còn tìm thấy ở những nơi phong cảnh kì thú...) (Tran Kiem, 1999).	“at”	“ở”	[locator]- container reference framework
[6]	... as might enable him to make a figure <u>in</u> - the national convulsions which appeared to be impending (Smith, 1909). (mưu bá đồ vương <u>trong</u> những biến cố quốc gia) (Tran Kiem, 1999).	“in”	“trong”	[locator]- container reference framework
[7]	Wamba could not be prevented from lingering occasionally <u>on</u> the road (Smith, 1909). Oămba vẫn la cà <u>trên</u> đường về (Tran Kiem, 1999).	“on”	“trên”	[positioning indication]- overlapping reference framework

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From the above material, locative prepositions “at, in, on” and TDTV obey the relationship between DTDV and DTQC (similar to representational meaning in question 1).

Contents in the representational meaning of locative prepositions “at, in, on” and TDTV positioned between two geometric configurations are contact and support.

The positioning content of locative prepositions “at, in, on” and TDTV for a geometry is contained by another geometry in the sense of similarity expression.

However, the locative prepositions “at, in, on” and TDTV also have differences in the way of translating meanings in English-Vietnamese documents according to the following categories of semantics.

**b. The differences in translation of English and Vietnamese in locating the preposition “at, in, on”**

A different reference localization framework in which the English prepositions “at, in, on” and the corresponding Vietnamese units (TDTV) have new dissimilar characteristics to the usual spatial arrangement (such as cause, effect.) movement, nature, purpose, method under the influence of “meaning variation”. When translation in “change of meaning”, the meaning of the locative prepositions “at, in, on” is the corresponding unit of Vietnamese (TDTV) by a particular communication context is recognized by a different translation than the meaning of shown in the examples below.

The first difference is the mixed semantics of the three locative prepositions “at, in, on”. Therefore, the meaning of the preposition “at” is translated into the structural meaning of “on” by the expression “trên” compared to the meaning of the corresponding unit in Vietnamese (TDTV). The meaning of the preposition “in” is expressed by the meaning of “cause” “khiến” as compared to the meaning of the corresponding unit in Vietnamese (TDTV). The meaning of the preposition “on”, which is recognized as the meaning of “for” “cho” compared to the structural meaning of the corresponding unit in Vietnamese (TDTV).

**Table 3. The prepositions “at, in, on” and the Vietnamese semantic expression (TDTV) in the first difference**

No	Example	English preposition	The Vietnamese semantic expression (TDTV)	Semantic expressions
[8]	He also carried his small triangular shield, broad enough <u>at</u> the top to protect the breast, and from thence diminishing to a point (Smith, 1909)	“at”	[positioning indication] the reference framework coincides with two objects close together	phía <u>trên</u> rộng đủ (Tran Kiem, 1999) [points to a place] - overwhelming reference framework
[9]	The nobles, whose power had become exorbitant during the reign of Stephen, and whom the prudence of Henry the Second had scarce reduced into some degree of subjection to the crown, had now resumed their ancient license <u>in</u> its utmost extent (Smith, 1909).	“in”	[indicating impact] framework of reference	khiến họ ít bị lệ thuộc vào triều đình (Tran Kiem, 1999) [indicates impact] superimposed framework of reference

[10]	I'll tell my big brother <u>on</u> you. (Mark Twain, 2013)	"on"	[indicates impact] superimposed framework of reference	để tao mách anh tao cho mày xem (Nguy, Hoang, & Hong Sam, 2016)	[point of purpose] framework of reference that overlaps two things
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(Nguyen Thi Tuyet Hanh, 2021)

The 2nd distinction is that prepositions "at, in, on" are used for displaying directions of objects. The semantics of the shape of the prepositions "at, in, on" may be translated with cognitive semantics, which are unique to the semantics of the corresponding devices in Vietnamese (TDTV). However, all have unique meanings. Precise directional properties, including the semantics of the preposition "at" with the expression semantics "lại" may be expressed because the semantics "again" in comparison with the semantics of the corresponding unit in Vietnamese (TDTV). Semantics of the preposition "in" with the expression meaning "xuống" are translated into the semantics "down" compared to the semantics of the corresponding unit in Vietnamese (TDTV). The structural semantics of the preposition "on" with the expression meaning "vào" may be translated into the semantics of "on" compared to the semantics of the corresponding unit in Vietnamese (TDTV).

Table 4. The prepositions "at, in, on" and the Vietnamese semantic expression (TDTV) in the second difference

No	Example	English preposition		The Vietnamese semantic expression (TDTV)	Semantic expressions
[11]	He ran headlong <u>at</u> me: I felt him grasp my hair and my shoulder; he had closed with desperate thing. (Bronte, 1930)	"at"	[redirect only] duplicate framework reference coincides with two objects close together	nó xông " <u>lại</u> " (Tran, 1982)	[direction] the framework of reference occupies the space between two objects
[12]	... and seating himself <u>in</u> an arm-chair. (Bronte, 1930)	"in"	[direction] the frame of reference occupies the space between two objects	nó ngồi phịch <u>xuống</u> ghế bành (Tran, 1982)	[indicates impact] superimposed framework of reference
[13]	Some of us pumped <u>on</u> our heads - mine's damp yet. See? (Mark Twain, 2013)	"on"	[direction] The reference framework that coincides between two objects in space.	ngịch phun nước <u>vào</u> đầu bọn cháu. (Nguy, Hoang, & Hong Sam, 2016)	[direction] the framework of reference occupies the space between two objects



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In the third difference, locative prepositions “at, in, on” are not translated into Vietnamese (TDTV) as in the following examples:

[14] Why, how call you those grunting brutes running about ON their four legs?”demanded Wamba (Smith, 1909)

(Vậ chứ anh gọi ở những con vật bốn chân là gì?) (Tran Kiem, 1999)

[15] ... he ejaculated AT the top of his voice to a ragged (Smith, 1909)

(... anh lớn tiếng ở gọi con chó săn dữ tợn<sup>1</sup> trên đồi) (Tran Kiem, 1999)

## CONCLUSION

As said above, if the DTQC in the locative reference of the English locative prepositions “at, in, on” is assimilated with the speaker as DTQC in the locative reference of the corresponding devices in Vietnamese (TDTV) [similar in reference framework referenced in the locative reference system], the interpretation expression semantics of the locative preposition “at, in, on” could be much like the expression semantics of the corresponding units in Vietnamese (TDTV). In contrast, the translational semantics of the locative prepositions “at, in, on” will exhibit different shifting features with the semantics of the corresponding locative linguistic entities in Vietnamese (TDTV) while DTQC in the locative reference gadget of the English locative preposition isn’t taken into consideration to be the speaker just like the DTQC in the locative reference system of the English locative preposition is not considered being the speaker like the DTQC in the locative reference system of the corresponding units in Vietnamese [no similarity in the locative reference frame in the locative reference system in the Vietnamese locative system] [positioning reference]. Therefore, those survey consequences play a sensible position in the method of translating supply and goal language through the semantic cognitive mechanism in order that compatible with the language perception culture according to its own frame of reference with characteristics of each ethnic group in the method of language translation and teaching.

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<sup>1</sup> The orginial work: (... *anh lớn tiếng ở gọi con chó săn trên đồi dữ tợn*)  
The author: (... *anh lớn tiếng ở gọi con chó săn dữ tợn trên đồi*)

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